

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EUR-25 IO-13 COA-02 INT-08 RSR-01 /138 W

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R 252150Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 650

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE CO

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS: PASTRANA VISIT

REF: CARACAS 6357

1. WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM AND OTHERWISE THE RATHER ANODYNE "ACTO DE MARACAIBO" AND OTHER FRIENDLY WORDS ENUNCIATED THIS WEEK BY THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA. ACCORDING TO BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS PRIVATELY TO ME, NO AGREEMENTS OF ANY SUBSTANCE WERE REACHED. COLOMBIAN FONMIN VASQUEZ CARAZOSA TODL ME, "THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN FORMULAS FOR SOLVING THE QUESTION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA BETWEEN US AND VENEZUELA, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH ANY SOLUTION UNTIL AFTER THE VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS." WHEN I SAID THAT PERHAPS A COROLLARY COULD BE ADDED "ALSO AFTER THE COLOMBIAN ELECTIONS," HE NODDED IN AGREEMENT.

2. THIS MORNING CALVANI CONFIRMED HIS COLLEAGUE'S STATEMENT BUT ADDED THAT IN ALMOST HALF A WEEK OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME EITHER PRESIDENT CALDERA OR PRESIDENT PASTRANA HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW EACH OTHER. HE ADDED THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE "ACTO DE MARACAIBO" WAS EYEWASH BUT INSISTED THAT AT LEAST
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A BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WHICH

DID NOT EXIST BEFORE. CALVANI MADE NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO ANY AGREEMENT ON THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE AND THUS TACITLY AT LEAST CONFIRMED WHAT HIS COLOMBIAN COLLEAGUE HAD MORE EXPLICITLY EXPRESSED.

3. HAVING ATTENDED THE CEREMONIES AT MARACAIBO, I SHOULD SAY THAT ON BALANCE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PASTRANA WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, WHICH THE CANNY CALDERA WAS AT NO LOSS TO CAPITALIZE ON. IN FACT, FROM THE GREEN COPEYANO BANNERS FLYING IN THE MARACAIBO BREEZE, AT TIMES ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THIS ASSEMBLY OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WAS A PARTISAN RALLY. THE WHOLE SHOW ADDED UP TO AN INCREASE LOCALLY OF CALDER'S IMAGE AND POLITICALLY OF A VENEZUELAN SUCCESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, REINFORCED BY THE VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF WAR VESSELS OF SIX COUNTRIES. I WAS PLEASED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BRITISH FRIGATE "MINERVA" (PRINCE CHARLES EMBARKED), THE BRITISH-BUILT VENEZUELAN DESTROYER "NUEVA ESPARTA," AND THE DOMINICAN/CANADIAN-BUILT EX-YACHT "RAMFIS," EVERY OTHER VESSEL HAD BEEN BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE THREE VENEZUELAN SUBMARINES AND DD "CARABOBO," EX-USS "BEATTY." OBVIOUS ENVY OF ALL EYES WAS USS "AINSWORTH" WHICH NOT ONLY WAS THE NEWEST AND SMARTEST BUT ALSO MUCH IMPRESSED PRESIDENT CALDERA BY BLASTING OFF THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ANTHEM AS HIS PRESIDENTIAL YACHT CAME ABEAM. CALDERA WENT OUT OF HIS WAY IN A SPEECH YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO THANK U.S. AND U.K. FOR THEIR NAVAL REPRESENTATION, SYMBOLIC OF THE SUPPORT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD GIVEN VENEZUELA IN ITS WARS OF INDEPENDENCE. MCCLINTOCK

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